Patient Falls

Edmonson Psychiatric Falls Risk Assessment Model

Nurses at the Vermont State Hospital assess all patients daily for risk of falls. VSH nurses identified that The Hendrich II Falls Risk Model, which was implemented in 2008, was not responsive to the falls risks associated with psychiatric patients. The VSH Department of Education and Training researched falls risk assessments in early 2010 and the Edmonson Psychiatric Falls Risk Assessment was implemented at VSH in July 2010. The Edmonson Psychiatric Falls Risk Assessment was created specifically for the unique needs of the psychiatric inpatient population and addresses the unique risk factors for falling that psychiatric patients have. Proper identification of these risk factors guide the interventions essential to maintain patient safety and enhanced quality of care. The nine risk factors included in the tool were developed through careful review of literature and clinical expertise.

For those patients assessed to be at high risk for falls, the nurses utilize a Falls Prevention Care Plan which provides a menu of interventions from which to select to formulate an individualized plan of care of falls prevention interventions.

The data presented below is an overview of patient falls and their frequency per unit per month during six months in 2010-2011. This data on patient falls includes all falls, whether or not the fall resulted in an injury to the patient. There was one patient who had 3 or more falls during this time period and who received thorough medical and neurological examinations to determine the cause of the falls.

Patient Falls						
	10/10	11/10	12/10	01/11	02/11	03/11
B1	3	1	1	0	1	0
B2	3	0	3	2	1	3
BR	3	0	2	1	0	0
All Units	9	1	6	3	2	3